

# PRIDE IN THE PAST VISION FOR THE FUTURE

November 30, 2004 Omni-Shoreham Hotel Washington, DC



COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNI-VERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERV-ICES CORPORATION

#### HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), a nonprofit organization created by Congress in 1974 to ensure that Americans have access to our justice system regardless of their economic means. For three decades, LSC has lived up to the noble purpose for which it was created-providing legal assistance in civil matters to tens of millions of low-income Americans who would otherwise have gone without counsel. The Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974 was passed with broad bipartisan support in Congress and, thirty years later, broad bipartisan support for a strong federal role in equal justice efforts remains. LSC's past and current leaders, as well as the thousands of advocates who work for LSC-funded legal services programs throughout America, deserve credit for the vital work they do every day on behalf of clients in desperate need of qualified counsel.

Today, there are currently more than 45.2 million Americans who qualify for assistance from one of LSC's 143 grantees nationwide. Legal services' clients are as diverse as our nation, encompassing all races; ethnic groups and ages. They include the working poor, veterans, family farmers, people with disabilities and victims of natural disasters. More than two-thirds of LSC clients are women—most of

them mothers.

The legal problems faced by those living in poverty can have serious, long-term consequences for children and, as a result, for society as a whole. The most common types of cases handled by LSC-funded advocates address family law, housing, employment, government benefits and consumer-related issues. For low-income individuals and families, legal services advocacy in these and other areas represents their only means of access to the justice system.

In addition to helping people resolve some of their immediate economic and legal needs, LSC programs also educate people on their rights and responsibilities under the law. With this information, clients can use their knowledge to work within the justice system to restablish economic independence. With LSC's help, families can maintain their incomes, homes, health benefits and their dignity.

More than two centuries ago, our founding fathers enshrined the importance of equal justice in the preamble to the Constitution, identifying the obligation "to establish justice" as the first specific function of the new government. Justice, then, is not simply another government asperation; it is the historic mandate of a free society. On the occasion of the LSC's 30th anniversary, members of Congress should take note and pay homage to the Legal Services Corporation and the critical role it has played in helping America live up to this mandate and our highest ideals.

Thank you to the following for their generous support:

BelllSouth Corporation
Bureau of National Affairs
The CIMA Companies, Inc.
Covington & Burling
Fedder and Garten, PA.
Legal Files
Strickland Brockington Lewis LLP



#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 2004

I send greetings to those celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation.

A responsible and compassionate society protects its most vulnerable citizens. For three decades, LSC has helped fund legal assistance for low-income individuals in need. Through your programs, your organization has contributed to a fair and effective judicial system and advanced the ideals that make our country strong.

I applaud your commitment to upholding the fundamental principles of opportunity and equal justice for all. Your efforts help make our country a more hopeful place.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes.



### LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

## 30th Anniversary Celebration

## "PRIDE IN THE PAST—VISION FOR THE FUTURE"

#### Tuesday, November 30, 2004

Omni Shoreham Hotel - Washington, DC

#### **Plenary Session**

4:30 pm — 6:30 pm Blue Room

#### **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

■ Helaine M. Barnett, LSC President

#### **Guest Speakers**

- Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, State of New York
- Robert J. Grey, Jr., President, American Bar Association

#### **Video Greetings**

- Senator Pete Domenici
- Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

#### "Pride in the Past"

Looking Back Over the Past Decades

- 1960s Justice Earl Johnson—Director, OEO Legal Services Program
- 1970s Thomas Ehrlich—First LSC President
- 1980s Justice Howard Dana—LSC Board Member
- 1990s LaVeeda Morgan Battle—LSC Board Member

#### **The Legal Services Corporation Today**

■ Frank B. Strickland, Chairman

#### **Client Perspective**

■ Gwendolyn Johnson, Legal Aid Bureau of Maryland

#### **Commemorative Video Presentation**

#### "Vision for the Future"

Helaine M. Barnett

#### Reception

6:30 pm — 8:30 pm Empire Room



## PRIDE IN THE PAST VISION FOR THE FUTURE



Frank B. Strickland Chairman



Helaine M. Barnett

#### **Board of Directors**



Lillian R. BeVier Vice Chairman

Robert J. Dieter ■ Thomas A. Fuentes ■ Herbert S. Garten
David Hall ■ Michael D. McKay ■ Thomas R. Meites
Maria L. Mercado ■ Florentino Subia ■ Ernestine Watlington

#### **Past LSC Chairs**

Roger C. Cramton (1975-1979) Hillary Rodham Clinton (1979-1980) F. William McCalpin (1980-1982) William F. Harvey (1982-1982) Robert E. McCarthy (1983-1984) William Clark Durant III (1984-1989)

Michael B. Wallace (1990) George W. Wittgraf (1990-1993) Douglas S. Eakeley (1993-2003)

#### **LSC Management**

and Enforcement

Helaine M. Barnett, *President*Jonathan D. Asher, *Acting Special Counsel*Victor M. Fortuno, *Vice President for Legal Affairs*, *General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary*John C. Eidleman, *Acting Vice President for Compliance and Administration*David L. Richardson, *Treasurer & Comptroller*Danilo A. Cardona, *Director of Compliance* 

Alice Dickerson, *Director of Human Resources*Michael A. Genz, *Director of Program Performance*John C. Meyer, *Director of Information Management*Jeff Morningstar, *Director of Information Technology* 

#### **LSC Office of Inspector General**

Richard West, Inspector General
David C. Maddox, Assistant Inspector General for
Resource Management
Laurie Tarantowicz, Assistant Inspector General
and Legal Counsel

## 30th Anniversary Planning Committee and Advisory Group

Helaine M. Barnett, *LSC President*Phyllis Holmen, *Georgia Legal Services Program*Don Isaac, *Florida Rural Legal Services*Bruce Iwasaki, *Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles*Lillian Moy, *Legal Aid Society of NE New York*Frank Strickland, *LSC Board of Directors* 

Christopher Aballe Jonathan D. Asher Lynn Bulan Wendy Burnette Deirdre Crockett Karen Dozier John Eidleman Ronald Jordan Eric Kleiman Marcos Navarro David Richardson Lisa Rosenberg Anh Tu

## **LSC Presidents**

Eighteen people have held the Presidency of the Legal Services Corporation since 1974, when Congress established the independent, nonprofit LSC to promote equal access to justice for Americans unable to afford civil legal representation. The LSC President is appointed by an 11-member Board of Directors chosen by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.



Thomas Ehrlich 1976 - 1979



Alice Daniel



Dan J. Bradley



Gerald M. Caplan



Clint Lyons



Donald P. Bogard



Thomas J. Opsut



James H. Wentzel 1985 - 1987



John H. Bayly 1987 - 1988



Terrance J. Wear



Emilia DiSanto



David H. Martin





John P. O'Hara



Alexander D. Forger



Martha Bergmark



John McKay



John N. Erlenborn



Helaine M. Barnett